



News for Pet Businesses

from Public Health – Seattle & King County

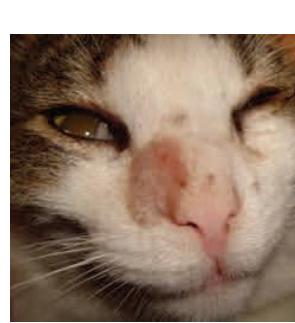
Dear Pet Business Operator,

Our office is dedicated to keeping both people *and* animals healthy. We focus on protection of public health and the environment. We ensure code compliance, provide resources for businesses owners, investigate disease cases, and respond to complaints.

During our inspection visits we focus on review of the code requirements as well as providing education. In 2014, we conducted 487 routine inspections of pet-related businesses in King County for 157 Groomers, 22 Mobile Groomers, 102 Pet Food Retailers, 37 Pet Shops, 8 Pet Shop Aquariums, 59 Pet Daycares, 53 Commercial Kennels, 8 Animal Shelters >1,500 Adoptions, 5 Animal Shelters <1,500 adoptions, 27 Satellite Adoption Centers, and 9 Poultry Retailers.

Ringworm – A “can of worms” to deal with

Ringworm is a fungal infection of the skin that affects both animals and people. It is spread by direct contact with infected animals or contaminated items such as toys, bedding or grooming tools. Ringworm spores can persist in the environment for months and even years. Both cats and dogs get ringworm, but it is more common in cats and young animals.



Animals with weakened immune systems due to chronic infections (e.g. FIV, FeLV), use of anti-inflammatory drugs, stress, or malnutrition are at higher risk of infection. The time between exposure and symptoms can be up to 3-4 weeks. The lesions, commonly on the face, ears, belly, tail, feet, or toe nails, are often ring-like with a circular area of hair loss with or without crust, but some infected animals have no visible lesions. Itching may or may not be present. Consult with your veterinarian as skin lesions can have many other causes. Treatment may consist of lime sulfur dips and/or antifungal medication.

It is especially important to isolate infected animals to help stop the spread to other animals and people. Thoroughly clean the environment to remove hair and skin flakes, and disinfect surfaces, bedding and other items. Spores can be killed with chlorine bleach and by heat (>110° F) in dishwashers and clothes dryers. To help prevent outbreaks, keep the environment clean, inspect new animals (especially kittens) for skin problems, and immediately separate any animals with skin lesions or possible exposure to ringworm. Staff should always wash their hands after handling animals and wear gloves and long sleeves if handling animals with ringworm. Persons with weakened immune systems should not handle animals with ringworm. It is helpful to have a written protocol for managing ringworm and ensuring staff are familiar with the signs of ringworm. For more information, visit: sheltermedicine.com/node/56 and giveshelter.org/images/stories/Programs/Ringworm_Treatment/About_Us.pdf.

We really appreciate your efforts in protecting the public's health by complying with code requirements. Your feedback and questions are always welcome - please contact our Health & Environmental Inspectors:

- Leah Helms: 206.263.8450 or leah.helms@kingcounty.gov
- Darshan (Dan) Dhillon: 206.263.2992 or darshan.dhillon@kingcounty.gov

You can also call the front desk at 206.263.9566. For more information, visit kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/petbusinesses.aspx and kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/zoonotics.aspx.

Sincerely,
Beth Lipton, DVM, MPH, Public Health Veterinarian

We heard you!



In 2013 we did a survey of permitted King County Pet Businesses to get your input. You received a handout with results in the 2014 newsletter. In response to your feedback, we improved the infection control plan templates and developed new, shorter templates for the specific needs of groomers and cat adoption facilities. These documents are available on the Pet Business web site. We also updated the instructions for how to use the web portal (distributed with the 2014 newsletter). More services will be available on the portal soon, and we continue to update our web site. Please contact our office if you have any suggestions for further improvements on the infection control plans, other resources, or the web site.



Help prevent the spread of *Salmonella*

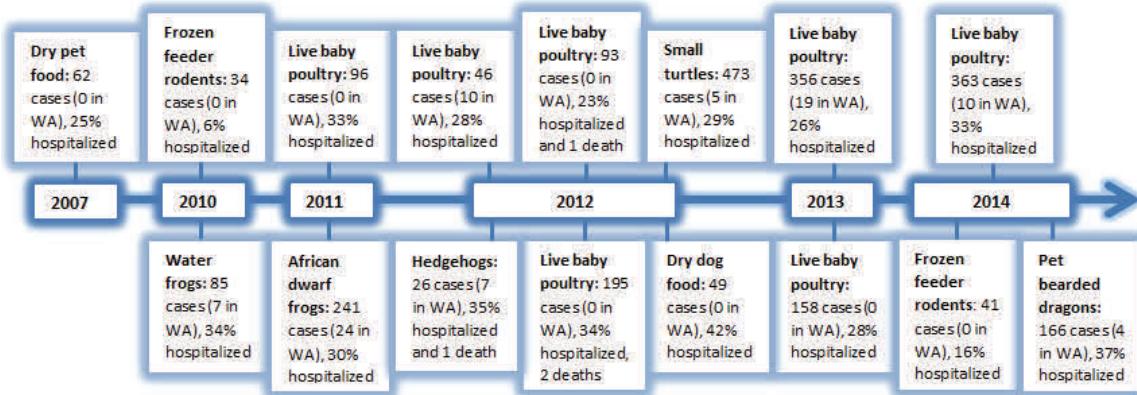
Infection with *Salmonella* bacteria can make people very sick. Each year, approximately 42,000 cases of salmonellosis are reported in the U.S., most commonly causing diarrhea and other gastrointestinal symptoms but also arthritis, blood infections and even death. Children, especially those under 5, are most likely to get infected. Young children, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems are most likely to have severe infections. Although there are many sources of *Salmonella*, several sources are pet-related, including baby poultry, reptiles and amphibians, small pocket pets, and pet food. Preventing *Salmonella* can be accomplished by good hand hygiene and proper cleaning and disinfection of animal enclosures and environments. Children under the age of 5 should not have contact with the above pets or pet products.



You play a large role in preventing *Salmonella* and other infections by complying with Pet Business Code requirements:

- Pet shop operators must give written information about preventing diseases from pets to all purchasers/adopters.
- Information about the risk of *Salmonella* must be posted near reptile/amphibian and live poultry displays.
- If customers are allowed to handle pets for sale or adoption, there must be hand washing signage and readily accessible hand washing facilities or hand sanitizing stations.
- Businesses that sell pet foods/treats requiring refrigeration or freezing must post safe handling instructions for customers.

Recent *Salmonella* outbreaks related to pets or pet products



Sometimes they bite: 10-day confinement period

Dogs, cats or ferrets that bite a person must be confined for 10 days from the date of the bite. During this time, the animal must:

- be securely confined to ensure that it cannot escape or get lost.
- be observed daily for any sign of illness or abnormal behavior, particularly signs of rabies such as becoming withdrawn, aggressive, or attempting to bite, unusual vocalizations, limping or dragging a leg, stumbling or becoming uncoordinated, muscle twitches or tremors, seizures, drooling or foaming at the mouth, appearing afraid of water or food, or having trouble eating or drinking. Report any illness or abnormal behavior to the Public Health Veterinarian at 206.263.8454.
- not be sold, adopted, or euthanized.
- not have contact with other animals or people.

If the animal is overdue for rabies vaccination, it should get its vaccine after the 10 days. All dogs, cats and ferrets age 4 months or older in King County must be currently vaccinated for rabies. Commercial kennels, pet daycares, and shelters must keep a bite log of all bites from animals to people and between animals, and pet shops must report bites to humans if there is a risk of disease transmission. If you have questions about these requirements, please contact the Public Health Veterinarian.

How strong is your bleach?

Sodium hypochlorite is the active ingredient in household chlorine bleach. It is an economical and effective disinfectant with a broad spectrum of antimicrobial activity. For many years, most household chlorine bleach was available at strengths of 5.25% to 6.25%, but in 2012, many manufacturers changed their formulation to 8.25%. To determine your product strength, read the list of active ingredients and look for the percentage of sodium hypochlorite. With a stronger formulation, you will need to use less bleach. Find more information under "Downloadable documents" on the Pet Business web site- including fact sheets on dilutions and disinfection recommendations and a bleach dilution calculator. The infection control plan templates also have information about mixing bleach.

Bleach Preparation Tips

Prepare a fresh bleach solution each day in a well-ventilated area that is separate from animals.
Label bottles of bleach solution with contents, dilution ratio and date mixed.

Use cool water.

Always add bleach to water, **NOT** water to bleach.

Wear gloves, and eye protection is recommended.

Use only plain, unscented bleach.

Adapted from the WA State Dept of Health Disinfection Workgroup